



US Army Corps
of Engineers®

Public Meeting Back Bay Navigation Plan

Open House, July 27

The Norfolk District of the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers is developing a Navigation Plan to reduce the impacts of boating activity within the Back Bay on sensitive wildlife, waterfowl and vegetation within the Back Bay National Wildlife Refuge in the Sandbridge area of Virginia Beach. In the long-term, the intent is to develop a plan for the area that both enables the public to utilize the waters of the Back Bay while protecting the resources of the area.

To address immediate concerns while a longer-term plan is being developed, the District issued a temporary navigation order on June 16, 2006. The order establishes “buffer zones” around the Refuge, and restricts vessels of any type from operating at a speed that creates a wake within 150 yards of the Refuge’s shoreline. It also restricts vessels from entering the interior waters located within Back Bay’s Ragged Island. The wake restrictions imposed by the temporary order do not impact vessels operating within the Great Narrows Channel while transiting to or from Shipps Bay and Redhead Bay; there are no such restrictions within that channel. The order will remain in effect until Dec. 31, 2007 unless changes or formal regulations are developed.

Open House scheduled for information and comment

Input from agencies, stakeholders and citizens is key to any final decisions that are made regarding the Navigation Plan and the existing temporary order. The focus is on developing a plan that enables the public to utilize the waters of the Back Bay while protecting the natural resources.

A public open house has been scheduled to provide citizens with information and an opportunity to comment on the temporary order and proposed navigation plan.

WHAT: Open House

WHEN: Thursday, July 27, 5 – 8 p.m.
(Come in any time during this period)

WHERE: Three Oaks Elementary School Cafeteria
2201 Elson Green Ave.
Virginia Beach, VA 23456

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Questions may be directed to the Norfolk District, U.S. Army Corps of Engineers: (757) 201-7606

For additional, on-going information on the project go to the district website at
www.nao.usace.army.mil; click on “Items of Interest.”